Compensation for Bhopal Gas tragedy

2242. SHRI SWARAJ KAUSHAL: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that an amount of Rs.478 crores is lying with the Reserve Bank of India for payment of compensation for Bhopal Gas tragedy;

(b) why the said amount has not been paid although 16 years have expired since the tragedy took place; and

(c) by when the directed compensation would be paid?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SATYA BRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) According to the information sent by the Office of the Welfare Commissioner, as on February 15, 2001, a sum of Rs.446.22 crore was lying with the Reserve Bank of India in dollar component.

(b) and (c) According to the available information, 10,29,431 claims were filed for compensation, out of which 10,25,634 cases have been disposed of up to 31.1.2001. Out of decided cases, Rs.1466.76 crore has been disbursed as compensation in 5,44,509 cases.

Drug samples for testing in CDL

2243. DR. Y. RADHAKRISHNA MURTY:
SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE:

Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Central Drugs Laboratory (CDL) in Kolkata, where testing of drugs is being done for the last 60 years, is not being provided with sufficient drug samples for testing;

(b) if so, the reasons therefore;

(c) if not, whether the imported drug samples and new